

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Currently, claims 21-52 are pending. Of these claims, claims 21-32 and 41-46 have been withdrawn from consideration. Thus, claims 33-40 and 47-52 are under examination. In this paper, claims 33 and 47 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 33-35, 38-40, 47-49 and 52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,025,894 to Shirasaki ("Shirasaki"). Claims 36 and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Shirasaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,363 to Kaminsky ("Kaminsky"). Claims 37 and 51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Shirasaki in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/002153 to Yano ("Yano").

Claims 33 and 47 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 33 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the transparent electrode, the electroluminescent layer, and the reflective electrode are supported by the substrate" Claim 47 has been amended in a similar way. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, at page 13, lines 19-23 along with Figs. 5 and 7-10 of the original specification.

The Examiner appears to believe that the rear polarization plate 24 of Shirasaki is equivalent to the substrate of the present invention. However, the rear polarization plate 24 is spaced from the transparent electrode 19, the organic EL layer 18 and the reflection electrode 15

as shown in Fig. 11. Accordingly, the rear polarization plate 24 of Shirasaki does not support the transparent electrode 19, the original EL layer 18 and the reflection electrode 15. As a result, the rear polarization plate 24 of Shirasaki can not be an equivalent structure to the substrate of the present invention as specifically recited in amended claims 33 and 47.

The Examiner appears to further believe that the diffusion plate 42 of Shirasaki is equivalent to the scattering portion of the present invention. Applicants note that the diffusion plate 42 of Shirasaki is located between the LCD panel 13 and the organic EL device 12 as described at column 18, lines 38-39. That is, the diffusion plate 42 is located outside the organic EL device 12. In contrast, the scattering portion of the present invention is located between the substrate and the electroluminescent layer or in the electroluminescent layer, i.e., the scattering portion of the present invention is located inside the lighting system.

Kaminsky is cited as disclosing a structure of concavities and convexities. Applicants note that Kaminsky merely discloses multi-layered transparent polymeric film base layers each having a pattern of complex lenses, and fails to show or suggest the above described features of the present invention including the fact that the transparent electrode, the electroluminescent layer, and the reflective electrode are supported by the substrate.

Yano is cited as disclosing minute particles in the scattering bodies. Applicants note that Yano discloses a device structure where a diffusing adhesive layer 1 is sandwiched between optical materials 2, 3. It is indicated in Yano that the diffusing adhesive layer has a light-transmissible adhesive layer dispersively containing colorless light-transmissible particles to exhibit light diffusing characteristics. However, Yano also fails to show or suggest the above

described features of the present invention including the fact that the transparent electrode, the electroluminescent layer, and the reflective electrode are supported by the substrate.

Accordingly, each of amended claims 33 and 47 is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Shirasaki, Kaminsky and Yano), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 33 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicants however reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Paper dated November 21, 2006

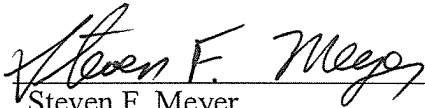
Reply to Final Office Action dated July 24, 2006

AUTHORIZATION

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 5000-5109. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: November 21, 2006

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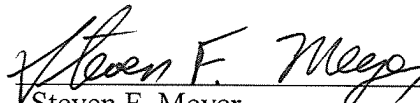
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